

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
Minutes of the Professional Association Liaison (PAL) Council
held in Las Vegas, Nevada, January 10, 2018

Gregory P DeSart, PE, called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm in Conference Room 1222, Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention, 4701 W Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. Committee members present were Board Chairman Robert O LaRiviere, PLS; and Patty Mamola, PE, Executive Director. Also present was Murray Blaney, Compliance Officer and Sarah Wiley, Administrative Assistant.

1. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

2. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves. The following persons representing professional organizations were in attendance.

David Alexander, PE – Advancing Professional Construction and Program Management Worldwide (CMAA)
Michael Levi, PE – Structural Engineers Association of Southern Nevada (SEASoN)
Jason Fackrell, PLS – Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS)
Jason Higgins, PLS – Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS)
Jonathan Tull, PE – National Society of Professional Engineers Nevada (NSPE-NV)
Debi Bohnet - American Public Works Association (APWA)
Susan Fisher – McDonald Carano Law Office
Lindsay Knox – McDonald Carano Law Office

3. Discuss proposed changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 625 and Nevada Administrative Code 625

Mr DeSart stated that the Board had adopted a strategic plan in May of 2017 and in order to be proactive with keeping regulations relevant and up to date with the changes within the industry the Board hired a lobbyist, Susan Fisher, to assist. Items that the board is looking to change are:

- Enabling an electronic sealing in lieu of rubber stamping
- Updating regulations to be less ambiguous
- Changing the requirement of a full time licensed engineer working in a Nevada office in order to offer or provide engineering or land surveying.

Mr DeSart advised that during the board meeting on January 11th, there would be a vendor providing a presentation on electronic sealing.

Ms Mamola provided copies of the proposed language changes to the NAC/NRS 625. She explained that it is not finalized but is close and would appreciate any feedback from all associations and would like their support in making those changes. Ms Mamola explained that she has been working with Chris Roper and Brent Wright for changes to structural regulations and also with representatives of associations to obtain their input and support for those NAC/NRS 625 changes. The changes will go before the board during their March board meeting for review and possible approval. If approved, the board will conduct two workshops, one in the North and one in the South, to present the proposed changes to licensees. The schedule for the workshops will be provided at the next PAL meeting.

Mr Alexander asked for clarification on the requirement of having a full time licensed engineer in a Nevada office. Ms Mamola explained that currently it is required that a full time licensed engineer is located within a building in the state of Nevada. The Board is looking to eliminate that requirement. She further explained that this law went into effect in the 80's and a lot of states do not have this in their laws. New Mexico has a licensee signing as responsible charge for that office. Mr LaRiviere stated that this is part of improving mobility and not impeding anyone from providing services or being a barrier of trade. Local entities may still have requirements for a local presence of a professional engineer or land surveyor.

Mr DeSart stated there is a national trend for deregulation. Governors are lumping all boards together such as Barbers Board, Cosmetology Board and Contractors Board in with Engineers Board as a group and talking about deregulation. Mr LaRiviere said that the Nevada Governor signed SB69 which requires the Board to license by endorsement or by comity within 60 days of receiving a completed application. The staff has since changed the process and went from a seven week turn around to a seven day turn around with approximately two hundred-twenty applications being processed between board meetings.

Ms Mamola explained that the Sunset Subcommittee is currently reviewing the board and twenty-five other boards this year and staff is currently working on their report. She explained that staff may contact the professional associations for assistance or support if called on to testify to justify the board and what we do.

Ms Mamola said that the board is tracking nationally political activities related to licensure and not sure what will happen but is keeping up to date. One is the National Council of Legislative Association, has commissioned a study with eleven states to look at occupational licensure. Engineers are not on that list but the board has reached out to the Contractor's board to offer assistance. The second item that the board is tracking is the South Dakota Governor is leading an initiative with five states, Colorado, Minnesota, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota to create an interstate compact amongst them allowing an eighteen month temporary license and the board would not be able to deny it. The board would need to approve the comity application within thirty days. Mr LaRiviere asked if the applicant had any disciplinary actions if the board would be able to deny and Ms Mamola replied that with this compact, the Board would have to approve the applicant.

Mr DeSart stated that during the Public Outreach Committee Meeting it was discussed about conducting a Continuing Education workshop with varying topics and speakers, which would offer attendees hours towards completing their PDH requirement. The committee discussed offering the workshop during October or November with a low cost of \$25-\$30 per attendee. They also discussed reinstating an award or certificate ceremony to raise awareness of new licensees. Possibly partnering with Ms Bohnet with APWA during their end of the year holiday event where most engineering and land surveying associations would be in attendance. Everyone agreed that a certificate ceremony would be beneficial in celebrating the new licensees and providing the opportunity for them to converse with all of the associations and businesses at the ceremony. A few of the representatives offered different ideas of when and where the ceremony could take place.

4. Discuss professional association calendar located on board website

Mr DeSart said that the Board has updated the calendar on its website to list professional association's events such as luncheons, award ceremonies, and seminars among other events. He further suggested that if any of the associations have upcoming events to refer to the calendar to make sure there won't be any conflicts with other associations and their events on the same date.

5. Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Activities

6. Professional Association / Industry Activities

Ms Bohnet provided an update of APWA's upcoming events:

- Spring conference will be April 18th-20th in Laughlin, NV.
- APWA's summer intern program will assist with the hiring process and also providing a \$1500.00 stipend for hiring an intern. The goal is 2 interns in the North and 2 interns in the South region with 1 working for a public agency and 1 working in a private agency.
- Submitting for national awards, which is due by March 1st.
- Evaluating Las Vegas for a location for their national conference in 2023.

Mr Alexander provided an update of CMAA's upcoming events:

- UNLV golf tournament which supports the sports engineering program at UNLV will be April 6th.

Mr Levi provided an update of SEASoN's upcoming events:

- SEASoN's Spring seminar will be held May 4th.
- Coordinating with AISC to go over their new changes to their latest code revision.

Mr Fackrell and Mr Higgins provided an update of NAL's upcoming events:

- First State Board meeting scheduled for next week.
- Western Regional Survey Conference will be held in Las Vegas at the Luxor on February 21st-24th with Susan Fisher and Mr Higgins conducting a full day mock trial.

Mr LaRiviere asked if NALS has been looking at the statute revisions for the NAC/NRS 625. Mr Higgins explained that those revisions would be discussed at the board meeting next week and has been a topic of conversation with current and new board members. Mr Higgins stated that he is pushing for NALS to hire a lobbyist this year.

Mr Tull provided an update of NSPE-NV's upcoming events:

- Currently involved with Map House Planning and appreciating everyone's participation.
- A Sporting Clay Fundraiser will be held in the Spring of this year, no date set as of yet.
- NSPE National meeting will be held July 19th-21st at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.
- NSPE Evening Banquet will be held the last weekend in February, date not set as of yet.

7. Open Discussion Topics

Mr Levi questioned the previous requirement of having a Civil Engineering license prior to obtaining a Structural Engineering license. Ms Mamola explained that currently the board only requires the passing of the 16 hour Structural NCEES exam however, the Board now recognizes that this is a mastery profession and the Board is currently working to change the law to require six years of experience to be licensed as a Structural Engineer.

Mr Tull expressed his concern with the national trend towards elimination of a 'Super License'. Model law across the nation is that a Professional Engineer license requires a Bachelor's Degree and four years of experience. By adding an additional requirement and if other states require something different to become a Structural Engineer you are creating a 'Super License' which can create a barrier to enter for people to practice.

Mr Levi stated that in his experience he is coming across home owners requesting a Structural Engineer for non-Structural work and isn't sure why that is. He then asked if anyone can take the Structural Exam without having the

experience. Ms Mamola advised him that similar to the Professional Engineer Exam, you do not need to have the required experience before taking the NCEES exams. Mr Levi said that he would share this information and the changes proposed by the Board to the SEASoN's Board meeting being held tomorrow.

Ms Fisher stated that she appreciated being able to attend the Board meeting and to hear of the questions and concerns. She advised that she may be reaching out to the representatives for a letter of support if needed for the Sunset Subcommittee review report and also for support with the legislative changes being proposed.

All in attendance discussed the importance of working together during the legislative process to support all associations' proposals. Ms Mamola advised that the board tries to provide as much notice as possible when there is something that will affect the Engineering and Land Surveying profession.

8. Next Meeting Date and Location

The next PAL Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board's Reno office.

9. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion. Mr DeSart adjourned the meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 5:25 pm

Sincerely,

Patty Mamola, PE
Executive Director